



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

September 23, 2005

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Christopher L. Richter, DOB: 8-26-74, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 108 months in federal prison and 4-years of supervised release for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine. Richter pleaded guilty to this charge on June 20, 2005.

The charges against Richter arose from an investigation of cocaine distribution in the Eagle River and Rhinelander area by Richter, Robert J. Smith, DOB: 12-13-72, and Robert D. Burgess, DOB: 5-24-74, both of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, between January 2002 and August 2002. Richter and the others drove from Milwaukee to the northern Wisconsin area on the weekends where they sold cocaine to local customers. The local customer either consumed the cocaine or distributed it to others.

The investigators reconstructed the criminal activities of Richter and his associates through phone records, hotel receipts, and witness testimony. Smith was sentenced on November 22, 2004 to 188 months in federal prison for his role in the offense. Burgess, who pleaded guilty to the same charge on August 1, 2005, will be sentenced on October 31, 2005.

United States Attorney Sinnott praised the work of the North Central Drug Task Force and called the sentence a strong message to others distributing cocaine.

The charges against Richter were the result of an investigation conducted by the North Central Drug Task Force. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

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